

# Civil Commitment Unit

## For Sexual Offenders

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Purpose	<p>The Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO) provides a 24/7 secure, long term, and highly structured setting to treat sexually violent predators who have served their prison terms but who, in a separate civil trial, have been found likely to commit further violent sexual offenses.</p>
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Established in 1999, the program has grown steadily. As of July 2011, there were 84 patients, all of them court-ordered. All are men. The average age is 45 but the range is from the 20s to the 80s.</li><li>▪ CCUSO must accept every person who is committed by a court. It is projected the population will grow to 96 patients in two years.</li></ul>
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The CCUSO unit is a 24/7 secure facility located on the campus of the mental health institute (MHI) at Cherokee. CCUSO patients have no contact with patients of the MHI.</li><li>▪ The CCUSO treatment program includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Group and individual therapy, including victim empathy and strategies to prevent relapse.</li><li>○ Educational programming for patients who do not have the basic skills needed to fully participate in therapy.</li><li>○ Physiological assessments to measure and verify results of treatment strategies.</li><li>○ Transitional and discharge planning, and supervision for patients who have completed all five treatment phases, if ordered by a court.</li></ul></li></ul>
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Patients must participate in the structured program to advance toward eventual release. In SFY 2011, 31 percent of patients progressed to the next treatment phase.</li><li>▪ Several patients are in the fifth and final phase of the treatment program. In this phase, participants have jobs and live in an apartment setting on campus under tight regulations and monitoring. Final discharge requires an order from the committing court.</li><li>▪ No patient has completed all five phases of the treatment program, but in the 12-year history of the program, a total of 13 patients have been dismissed on judicial orders or trials. In most of these cases it was ruled there were flaws in the commitment procedure.</li></ul>